


If this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107355-00052.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Claim 1 recites an exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine for cleaning exhaust gases discharged from the internal combustion engine including an exhaust system defining a main exhaust passage connected to an internal combustion engine, and a bypass exhaust passage which branches off and joins back to the main exhaust passage. A switching device switching an exhaust gas flow path to either of the main exhaust passage and the bypass exhaust passage. An adsorbent material disposed within the main exhaust passage for adsorbing unburned constituents of exhaust gases introduced into the main exhaust passage and releasing the unburned constituents as temperature increases. A control device operable to control the switching device. The control device switches the exhaust gas flow path to the main exhaust passage when the adsorbent material absorbs the unburned constituents, the control device switches the exhaust gas flow path to the bypass exhaust passage when the adsorbed unburned constituents is released from the adsorbent material, and the control device switches the exhaust gas flow path to the main exhaust passage when a release of the adsorbed unburned constituents is completed.

In making this rejection, the Office Action took the position that Tanaka discloses all of the elements of the claimed invention. However, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the structure of the claimed invention, and therefore, fails to provide the advantages of the present invention. For example, in the exhaust emission control system of the present invention, the control device switches the exhaust gas flow path to the main exhaust passage when the adsorbent material adsorbs the unburned constituents, the control device switches the exhaust gas flow path to the bypass exhaust passage when the adsorbed unburned constituents is